Attorney general criticizes Garrison probe of JFK death

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WASHINGTON — Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said yesterday he was disturbed by the manner in which New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is investigating the Kennedy assassination.

Clark said that he was disturbed that Garrison had persisted in his investigation without turning any new evidence over to the federal government.

"I find it curious and I find it disturbing and I find it saddening," Clark said.

On CBS' "Face the Nation," he repeated his earlier skepticism of the value of the Garrison investigation, in which the flamboyant Louisianian is pursuing a well publicized but, thus far, not very revealing conspiracy theory on the assassination.

Clay L. Shaw goes before a three-judge panel in New Orleans today in an attempt to topple Garrison's claim that Shaw plotted with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to kill Kennedy.

But the main legal battle will come tomorrow when the same three criminal district court judges hear both sides to decide if Garrison has enough evidence to hold Shaw for trial on conspiracy charges.

SHAW, a decorated Army Major in World War II and retired managing director of New Orleans' International Trade Mart, has been booked on conspiracy.

Shaw denied all charges leveled at him by Garrison and denied knowing anything about a plot to kill the president.

Also today, Raymond Cummings, 35, an ex-taxi driver from Dallas, was due in New Orleans to tell Garrison what he knew of an alleged link between accused presidential assassin Oswald: David W. Ferrie, a deceased figure in Garrison's probe, and Jack Ruby, Dallas nightspot owner who killed Oswald and later died of cancer in prison.

Clark said he knew of no new evidence turned up by Garrison and, he added, "I will be very much surprised if any exists."

Asked if he had asked Garrison for his evidence, Clark said he had not been in "direct communication" with the district attorney "in view of the attitude that he has taken." Garrison has told reporters that he was not inclined to share his information with the federal government.

ASKED about speculations that Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba had sent a team to kill President Kennedy, Clark said: "There have been studies of these matters. We have nothing that indicates any evidence of a conspiracy, and we stand on that on the basis of our investigation."

He described the Warren commission investigation of the assassination as the most comprehensive and definitive investigation of a series of facts "ever undertaken." The commission concluded that Oswald acted alone in the slaying of Kennedy